

**For Such Is The Kingdom Of God** (Mark 10:13-16)

- I. The Negative Characteristics of the Encounter
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  - B. Misplaced Preoccupation
  - C. Misread Precept
- II. The Necessary Characteristics of the Entrance
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For Such is the Kingdom of God Mark 10:13-16  
An Episcopal church in one of its publications, revealed some answers given to church school questions by children. They were beautifully worded. One answered "Noah's wife was Joam of Arc" The fifth commandment? "The fifth commandment is to honor your father & mother. One of my favorites: Who was Lot's wife?" "Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire by night." When they were studying church history, one child said "The Pope lives in a vacuum." One little girl said "

A Christian can have only one wife. This is called "monotony". These little humours quotes seem to display the innocence and purity of a child. In our text the Lord Jesus is taking the display of these children and teaching them and his disciples Kingdom Charistic truths. Every one of us must identify the essential characteristics portrayed in this text referring to ensure a position in the Kingdom Jesus is to.

I. The Negative Characteristics of the Encounter  
The placement of this scene reminds me of the embarrassing little rhyme: Penny & Cary sitting in a tree, K-i-s-s-i-n-g. First comes love then comes ... ... then comes a baby carriage

is for propagation. Blessing 12/11/08 This is a summary

A. Mistaken Perception - Their eyes their perception was was mistaken. These mothers were trying to get their babies to Jesus. ~~because~~ <sup>because</sup> there was a need. A persistent need that was intruding their sphere of service and yet they saw it as a nuisance. How cold and callous of them to shake those babies aside. But how often we overlook the

B. Misplaced Preoccupation - What is at the forefront of the minds of Jesus' disciples. Where were they heading. There was the intersection with destiny that lie ahead at Jerusalem! The Cross! The conflict ahead. They could probably sense the gravity of the burden that Jesus bore.

We are taunted by the world as a ape in the sky

C. Misread Precept - I had a basketball coach that would kick basketballs and throw clip boards and say if you guys would just listen to me we could win some games! So just the previous chapter Jesus sat a child in the midst and said Ch 9:37. We should not neglect the word of God. Jesus reaction was that of rebuke and <sup>incarnation</sup>

II. The Necessary Characteristics of the Entrance

Jesus now openly publicly rebukes his disciples. Completely contradicts what to their minds was a necessary action - its and in doing so shows their salvation. That's

- 1) ...over look the lost and needy world around us. How we grumble and complain that we wished certain folks wouldn't cuss or act like they do. This is embarrassing the family when in actuality it is the manifesting of a spiritual need! Or any kind of need for that matter!
- 2) ...pie in the sky, by and by, when I die when I die" kind of ~~useless~~ religion. With so many just looking off in the distant future and ~~useless~~ ignoring the needs of the nasty now and now. Jude expressed this present compassion: Jude 1:22-23 And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

- 1) ...into the kingdom, and then the ring of the gospel is clearly heard, No your going the wrong way! It's not how high you can get, it is how low you can get.

see with me? You know please tell me what you think. (1)

Influence of the world, culture, etc. that influences the sinner

directly on the sinner. And the sinner should be willing to admit

to being controlled by the world & be justified and be reborn

in Christ Jesus.

to God. That is the right way of salvation. (2)

- 2) ...this is the description of the broken sinner coming to Jesus.

between Humbled by the weight of sin, obedient to the gospel of Jesus

every word of Christ. (3) I think this is the common sinner

and also the sinner who comes to Jesus for salvation.

salvation. This is the sinner who comes to Jesus for salvation

in Christ Jesus.

- 3) ...come to Jesus with the eye of suspicion.

What he doestoworld. Then working they way taking

A. Childlike Discipleship - That word suffer, means 'permis or allow' Don't hinder them don't block them off. For inside of these approaching children are the qualities of those that will enter into my kingdom. He's talking about heaven hell business. Eternal life & eternal damnation. How would we describe children. Children are humble. Now some are not so due to rearing of parents. But most children by nature know their not running the show and know their place. For the most part children are submissive + obedient.

B. Childlike Demonstration - Jesus said, if you don't do it like they did it you'll not get in! This phrase "I shall not enter" is the strongest emphasis negation, "in no way whatsoever" enter the Kingdom. So what did these children do. The faith and trust of a child is demonstrated here. W. Wirshe said "A child enjoys much but can explain little" Children live by faith, trusting others care. They've not been hardened to keep the world suspect and alarms length. But the trust. You can not

III. The Nurturing Characteristics of the Embrace. Characteristic of all those that have come to know and trust Jesus is the embrace that is experienced. This

embrace of God's love is experienced by all that

A. A Changing Position - These approaching children who were at one time rejected and refused are now welcomed. And immediately lifted, lifted from a lowly position of sin and shame.

The psalmist David said in Ps 40. From sinking sand He lifted me with tender hand and where did he lift me to? Eph 2:6 and Habb

B. A Compassionate Placement - He placed his hands on them. I was looking at some video of the kids today of when they were babies. I remember that tender way only would hold them. That careful embrace of safety and precision! That the way God carries his children not in a cold distant fashion but close + personal

C. A Carefree Praise - He blessed them. The language suggests that he fervently blessed them and kept on blessing them. Expositors said 'Jesus took each child in His arms one by one and blessed them. Oh his blessings are increasing his mercies a new every morning. What are his blessings? Eph 1:3'

V. Close. I know a lot of people in churches that are childish. That's not what we are aiming at. Kingdom members are childlike in character are you?

- 1) Psalms 40:2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.
  - 2) ....With tender hand, He lifted me, From shades of night to planes of light, O praise His name, He lifted me!
  - 3) Ephesians 2:6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus
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- 4) Isaiah 40:11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.
  - 5) Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: What are they? He chose us, forgave us, adopted us, accepted us, redeemed us, purposed us, saved us enlightened us, purchased us... the list goes on and on...